

A program of Aid for AIDS Africa

Prevention

**Treatment** 

Education

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## **About Us**



Our Speakers

Aid for AIDS/Africa (AAFA) has been operating since 2001 first in parts of English speaking Africa then in the San Francisco Bay Area. *Positively Speaking* is a subset of AAFA's activities.

AFFA's main focus has been education and prevention. Besides its own programs, it has had a long history of collaborating with similar organizations here and abroad. It is one of the few

non-profits offering AIDS prevention and education to the disenfranchised African American community. AAFA has been operating informally since 1998 until 2001 and officially since 2001 when AID for AIDS Africa was incorporated into a 501(c)(3) California public benefit corporation. A recent PBS documentary summed up the need for such work with:

"Of the more than 1 million people in the U.S. infected with HIV, nearly half are black men, women and children — even though blacks make up about 13 percent of the population. AIDS is the primary killer of African-Americans ages 19 to 44, and the mortality rate is 10 times higher for black Americans than for whites<sup>1</sup>".

The political, social, and cultural factors that have contributed to this unfortunate situation is documented in AIDS/HIV literature as well as in AFFA's business plans. Our work has shown that prevention and education programs are cost effective and still have value in this underserved demographic. However, at the national level, HIV/AIDS dollars in the USA have been shifted away from prevention and education so that today only 3% of HIV dollars in the USA are allocated to this neglected service<sup>2</sup>.

Positively Speaking provides AIDS/HIV education to urban populations throughout the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. It collaborates with schools and community organizations. A list of a few of these community organizations is subtended at the end of this document. We make presentations which inform and affect individual behavior to educate and prevent AIDS/HIV. We also make audiences aware of community resources that are in place to support the infected.

Currently our presentations are funded by the AIDS Health Care Foundation<sup>3</sup> and the State of California Dept. of Education Code Section 51937-51939. The AIDS Health Care Foundation is a large international organization which fosters the development of medical advances and patient advocacy regardless of ability to pay. The State of California Dept. of Education program operates under the authority of Assembly Bill

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Frontline, PBS documentary Endgame, 2012.: <a href="http://www.npr.org/2012/07/05/156292172/aids-in-black-america-a-public-health-crisis">http://www.npr.org/2012/07/05/156292172/aids-in-black-america-a-public-health-crisis</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> AIDS Healthcare Foundation 6255 W. Sunset Blvd 21st Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90028 United States Tel. (323) 860-5200 - See more at: http://www.aidshealth.org/about/contact#sthash.VqAwpMMd.dpuf

1925, from the California Legislature—2003-04 Regular Session, entitled "Comprehensive Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Instruction".

Our presentations, besides informing audiences on AIDS prevention and treatment, are fortified by our presenters who are themselves infected and affected by HIV. They tell their stories and answer questions regarding HIV transmission, treatment, and the thinking that leads to HIV infection. The message emphasizes self-worth and self-respect for the presenters and their audience. The workshops present AIDS information through anecdotes, personal testimonials, and real life experiences. The fact that this information is presented by their peers makes the workshops more compelling and effective. The end goal is to engage, inform, and affect behavior.

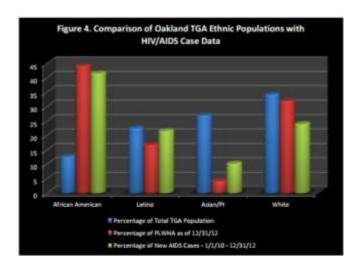


Our goal is to change self-destructive behavior.

## Program Relevancy

African Americans continue to compose the largest demographic of the newly infected in our service area. The following two PowerPoint slides from the Alameda County Public Health Dept. demonstrates this quite well.

Selected Characte	eristics, Alameda Cou	inty 2010-2012
	Three Year Average Number	Three Year Average Rate per 100,000
TOTAL	198	13.0
SEX		
Male	170	22.
Female	28	3.
RACE/ETHNICITY		
Atrican American	83	45.
Asian or Pacific Islander	20	4.
Latino	43	12.
White	48	9.
Other/Unknown	<5	5.



"The diversity of persons living with HIV in our region reflects the impressive diversity of Alameda County as a whole. But at the same time, it reflects the disproportionate impact the local HIV epidemic has on communities of color, particularly African Americans ... The percentage of African Americans infected with HIV in Alameda County is dramatically higher than the percentage of African Americans living in [the county] as a whole"



## **Operations**

Positively Speaking furthers the AIDS Health Foundation's goals of preventing new HIV infections, increasing awareness of HIV status. providing access to quality HIV care, and providing leadership on community

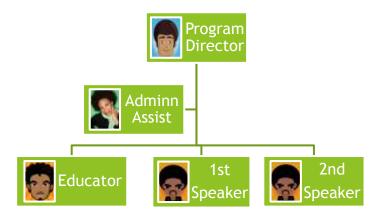
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 2014 – 2016 Alameda County, California, Comprehensive AIDS Prevention Plan, [Oakland] ... Sponsored by the Office of AIDS Administration, 2014, 34 p.

solutions to eliminating HIV stigma and barriers to testing and care.

We send a team of free-lance personnel to the venue where the presentation takes place. The team consists of an educator, two speakers, and the necessary AV equipment. To make grant money go further, the Program Director will often, at no cost, substitute for the educator. This donated time allows the fees to remain in the program to make the money go further. An "educator" will give the substance of each talk and will be followed by the speakers themselves in a well-rehearsed program. Each educator has been trained and certified by the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center.<sup>5</sup>

The "educator" has the most subject expertise. S/he is followed by the speakers who are culturally competent because they come from a community of the audience's peers. They share their personal hope, experience, and success stories.

The costs for each presentation fall into one of two categories depending on the funding source. Presentations to schools under the California Dept. of Education are billed at \$160.00 each. Each presenter gets \$50.00/each which includes a travel allowance. This comes to \$150.00 with \$10.00 left over for overhead expenses. Here is a personnel chart for the entire Positively Speaking program.



Positively Speaking has been operating for 13 months on a 12 month grant from AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION. The grant monies are beginning to be exhausted. The funding was never enough to meet all the goals outlined in the original award letter.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 520, Oakland, CA 94612-2037. http://www.stdhivtraining.org/contact\_us.html

Positively Speaking has applied to the AIDS Health Foundation for an additional funding to continue the work and is awaiting a response. We hope it is possible to continue this work as originally proposed

The following tables summarize the accomplishments and targets through August 15, 2015.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING PROGRESS REPORT						
Accomplishments from						
June 2013 through July 2014						
With Cal. Yr. 2015 Targets						
Presentations	Actual s	Target s	Varianc e	% Met		
High School Presentations	26	30	-4	87%		
Community Presentations (Adult)	8	20	-12	40%		
Speaker Presentations (Mixed)	52	60	-12	87%		
Total	86	110	NA	NA		
Individuals Served	Actual s	Target s	Varianc e	% Met		
Students	780	900	-120	87%		
Adults	573	300	273	191 %		
Total	1,353	2,400	NA	NA		

A partial list of our Community Presentations is subtended below to illustrate the diverse groups we reach.

Venue	Main Focus	Audience
House of Change	Drug Treatment	63
St. Columba Parish	Youth Ministry	21
Taylor Memorial	Youth Ministry	28
City of Refuge	World AIDS Day	214
E.B. Church of Religious Science		250
Sonoma State University		85
New Bridge Foundation	Drug Treatment	45
New Bridge Foundation	Drug Treatment	52
	Total	758

**LOCATION** 

455 Bay Street, #201

San Francisco, California 94133

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WEB SITE

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